(a) whether Government propose to revive closed fertilizer units in public sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the feasibility of revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) based on market demand and their techno-economic viability has been prepared by Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of fertilizers. The revival of these units will depend on the outcome of the examination of the report of PDIL.

Shortage and black marketing of fertilizers

482. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation/complaints about the shortage, non availability and black marketing of dry ammonia phosphate for Rabi crops in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is a decontrolled fertilizer and its availability depends on market forces of demand and supply. The availability of DAP in Rabi 2004-05 season was ensured as per assessed requirement. However, there has been an increase of about 16% in the sale of DAP upto 15.2.2205 during the current season due to which some States like Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have represented about stress in availability of DAP in some districts/areas within the State. Necessary interventions were made by coordinating with suppliers, States and Railways to make DAP available as per assessed requirement. No reports of Black Marketing of DAP have been received from any State Government during the period.